Review New Changes In Social Security Law

Several new changes in Social Security laws in regards to self-employed and employees were discussed today in an interview with J. W. Dinkiddie, Manager of the Lynchburg District Office of the Social Security Administration.

Self-Employed

Brought under the system for the first time beginning in 1955 are self-employed farmers, accountants, engineers, architects and funeral directors. Each of the above groups are covered by the law for taxable years ending after 1954 provided their annual net earnings are $400.00 or more for the taxable year. Net earnings of $400.00 or more are subject to a Social Security tax of 3% payable at the time the tax return of such earnings is filed before April 15, following taxable year. A portion of the tax return calls for the self-employed person's name, address and Social Security number, and it is this portion that is sent by Internal Revenue Service to the Social Security Accounting Division which credits individual accounts with earnings which are used later as the basis for payment of monthly Social Security benefits.

The self-employed farmer's return is distinguished from other self-employed returns in that he must report when he has $400 net income but may choose to pay on one-half of his gross income if gross is between $800.00 and $1,800.00. The farmer who grosses over $1800.00 must report on true net income of $400.00 or more but may choose to pay on $900.00 if his net is smaller than that amount.

Employees

New rules effective in January 1955 are in effect regarding the employment of domestic help and farm workers. Wages of domestic help must be reported by employers beginning with the first quarter of 1955 if the cash wages amount to $50.00 or more in the quarter. It no longer matters how long the employee works in that quarter. Employers of domestic help should withhold 2% of each employees wages which amount to $50.00 or more and 2% to it in order to report the wages and pay the 4% Social Security tax each quarter.

Wages of farm workers are taxable if cash wages amount to $100.00 or more in a year. The tax rate is the same as for other employees but reporting may be necessary only once a year.

It is suggested that self-employed, employers of domestic help and farm labor can get applications for Social Security cards and other necessary information from the District Office of the Social Security Administration, Post Office Building, Lynchburg, Virginia, or from the office of the Director of Internal Revenue. However, an informational card for farm operators is being mailed to all rural boxholders. The card contains information about Social Security and applications for employer's indentification number Those farm operators who do not receive one by the end of February may secure a copy by simply writing, phoning or visiting the Social Security office, Room 317, Post office Building, Lynchburg, Virginia.

A similar instruction card is available at the District Office or at Internal Revenue office for employers of domestic help and for those who need additional information on any phase of Social Security, a representative of the Administration will be at the Court House, Appomattox, Va., at 10:00 A. M. the fourth Monday of each month.

FARMERS REMINDED OF MIDDLEBURG SHORT COURSE

A "last-time reminder" of the annual pasture school for livestock and dairy farmers is forthcoming from John F. Shoulders, associate agronomist at VPI Agricultural Extension Service.

The school is scheduled for February 16 and 17 at the Middleburg branch of VPI. The first day will be of special interest to livestock producers. The second day is designed for dairymen.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year payable in advance.

LAMBING TIME TIPS ARE GIVEN

Ewes that lose weight during late pregnancy are subject to "lambing paralysis" or "pregnancy disease."

That's the warning from George A. Allen, Jr., associate animal husbandman at VPI. He says ewes should gain 25 to 30 pounds during pregnacy, and about one-half of this gain should be made during the month before lambing. The best way to insure this gain is to start feeding 1/2 pound of farm grain and 3 to 4 pounds of legume hay one month before lambing.

After the ewe lambs, step the grain up to 1¼ pounds a day, and the legume hay up to 4 to 6 pounds a day. If good quality legume hay is fed, the after-lambing grain ration should contain 10 to 12 pounds of protein supplement to 100 pounds of grain. If good quality hay is not available, add 20 pounds of supplement to 100 pounds of grain.

Wheat or a good grade of wheat bran in the ration is good insurance against vitamin E difficiency, or "stiff lamb disease."

If good winter pasture is available, the sugested amo can be reduced.

Allen also has some ing time suggestions. Ke new-born lambs' naval c ture of iodine to preve Keep the ewes and lam ing pen for three days lambs are born. Dock the lambs before they a old.

It will pay to creep-f from the time they wil ly 10 to 14 days old grass comes in the spri corn is the best creep market lambs. Creep-fe to market quicker or ha many cases grade highe

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These also are the principles on which the Boy Scout organization was founded just 45 years ago this week. They are the tenets of the Scout law, conceived with the faith that the best way to bring up a man with these qualities is to start when he's a boy.

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Cite Need for More Road Funds

If the Federal government took over interstate highways, Virginia still would need to increase its expenditures by $33,500,000 per year for ten years to keep up with its other roads.

The Federal government—as a result of a special study authorized by President Eisenhower—is considering a $25,000,000,000 program of interstate highway construction and improvement during the next 10 years.

The special study commission, headed by General Lucius D. Clay has recommended to President Eisenhower that a Federal highway authority be established to administer the $25,000,000,000 interstate road program, issuing $20,000,000,000 in revenue bonds and raising the other $5,000,000,000 from fees paid by filling stations, motels and other establishments located along the highways. The bonds would be retired by income from the 2-cent a-gallon Federal gasoline tax.

This was the program Senator Byrd assailed as "thoroughly unsound." He suggested instead that the Federal gas tax be cut to 1/2 cent a gallon, and that states raise their own gas taxes to obtain more revenue. Under this scheme, the Federal government would continue to aid state road programs from the proceeds of the lubricating oil tax and the 1/2 gas tax.

During the current fiscal year Virginia will receive $10,900,000 from the Federal government for road purposes—the Old Dominion's share of the present $535,000,000 program of Federal aid to states.

Virginia has 911 miles of interstate highways. In a recent study requested by the Federal Bureau of Public Roads, the State Highway Department estimated it would cost $569,000,000 to turn the interstate roads in Virginia into a network of limited access superhighways. In most cases, the estimate included the cost of making the highways four-lane divided roads.

Virginia's rural primary system exclusive of the 911 miles of interstate roads, have needs or will have needs which will cost $449,800,000 by 1965. These estimates are based on standards which engineers believe will provide adequate roads for traffic which is anticipated by 1965. Revenue for the rural primary system is estimated at $317,165,000 during the next ten years. The shortage here will be $132,635,000. Virginia's primary roads system includes about 8,000 miles of highways.

The rural secondary system which has about 40,000 miles of roads, about 15,000 of which are paved), will need $264,110,000 for construction and maintenance during the next 10 years. Revenue is estimated at $153,256,000. The shortage here will be $110,854,000.

Thus, if expenditures continue at present ratios from present sources (and allowing for normal increases in these revenues), the shortage by 1965 will be $334,699,000. That is $33,500,000 more each year from now until 1965.

If the Federal program should pass in Congress, the net gain to Virginia—in addition to the improvements in the interstate system—would be about $2,000,000 per year. This would be in the form of money which the state now spends on the interstate system on its own. If the Federal government paid the interstate road bill, the state would have the $2,000,000 to spend on other roads.

PLANTS FOR SCREENING HAVE POPULAR DEMAND

Shrubs and trees provide the most effective and attractive mean of obtaining privacy on the home grounds. Use of plant life for screening has expanded tremendously in recent years as real estate development has burst outward from most cities and towns, according to the American Association of Nurserymen.

Planting of shrubs and trees in developments where housing is fairly close together has various purposes, as follows:

1. To provide a line of demarcation between one property and another. This usually takes the form of a low hedge, a fence of roses, or even a high hedge where complete privacy is desired.

2. To screen off unsightly views. This may be the use of trees, or shrubs so planted that the unsightly view is blocked out completely.

3. Outdoor privacy for the family may be provided by trees and shrubs and smaller flowering plants. This enables the family to have an unbroken lawn space screened from the outside world for private family gatherings, games, picnicking and outdoor living in general. Flower beds are usually backed by fairly low-growing shrubs with a taller back-drop of trees.

4. Hedges are planted to screen off street traffic and to reduce traffic noises. Where there is plenty of space low-growing trees may be used. If the hedge is high enough, it will screen out much of the traffic noise as well as fumes and dust.

5. Even an old, unsightly building can be made attractice with flowering vines and shrubs which screen out its unsightliness.

6. Many home owners screen off work areas from play areas in the backyard. Garbage can, clothes line, vegetable garden, and similar areas can be enclosed with shrubs so as not to be seen from the outdoor living areas of the property.

For all-year screening coniferous and broadleaf evergreens are preferred since they do not shed their leaves. Diciduous shrubs will provide an efficient screen in the summer when the grounds are used most.

The screening can be varied greatly in form and foliage in order to provide a continuous show of flower and foliage colors. Your nurseryman can tell you which plants make the most effective screens, while providing the utmost in beauty. He also can explain the placing of trees and shrubs to provide "sun pockets" for the cooler months. He can tell you how to deflect either cold or hot winds, as the case may be. Pines, hemlocks, yews, cedars, arbor vitae and similar coniferous evergreen trees and shrubs are excellent for screening purposes. In warmer areas of the south and west, where broadleafed plants stay evergreen all year, many plant species may be used for this purpose.

A fast-growing shrub screen usually consisting of two rows, planted alternately, may consist of Euonymus, Kolkwitzia, Lonicera, Philadelphus, Photinia, Spirea, Syringa, Thuja, or some of the Viburnums. In the south, camillias, arbutus, Ilex might be named. Several species may be used and alternated to provide variety.

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